

Annual expenditure on research work

†2993. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is necessary to increase the amount of annual expenditure on the work related to research and development in the country;

(b) if so/the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the percentage of Gross Domestic Product spent by Government in the country during the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase the amount during Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is necessary to enhance investment in Research & Development in the country in order to meet the aspirations of the people and to withstand global competition. Accordingly, the Government has enhanced the S&T Plan outlay of Scientific Departments/Agencies from Rs. 12,022 crores in Ninth Plan to Rs. 25,243 crores in Tenth Plan and plans to increase it further in Eleventh Plan. Further, various initiatives have been taken by the Government to encourage investment on R&D both in public institutions and industry through several measures. These measures include higher allocation to scientific research, setting up of new institutions for science education and research, creation of centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas in academic and national institutes, strengthening infrastructure for R&D in universities, encouraging public-private R&D partnerships, grants for industrial R&D projects, income tax relief on R&D expenditure, weighted tax deduction for sponsored research, custom duty exemption on goods imported for use in Government funded R&D projects, tax holiday and national awards for outstanding R&D.

(c) According to the available official statistics, it is estimated that the Government spent 0.61 % and 0.59% of Gross Domestic Product on Research & Development (R&D) during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Government plans to increase the S&T Plan outlay of various Scientific Departments/Agencies in the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.